Appomattox County . . . Yesterday And Today

By Paul Ghioto

It's always interesting to note how some parts of the County have grown in importance over the years while others, once prosperous, have taken back seats to other communities in growth. For instance, the site of the present county seat wasn't even settled in 1836 whereas Bent Creek (Disguidsville) had a population of 132.

The following descriptions of present-day Appomattox County communities, then in Buckingham County, were recorded by Joseph Martin in 1836 in his book **A New And Comprehensive Gazeteer Of Virginia And The District of Columbia.**

"Dliuguidsville, or Bent Creek P.V. (post village) 112 miles from Richmond, situated in the S.W. part of the county at the mouth of Bent Creek on James River. A neat village with considerable trade, and containing 16 dwelling houses, 3 general stores, 2 groceries, a tavern, a house of private entertainment, and a tobacco warehouse; -at the latter were formerly inspected from 8 to 1200 hogsheads of tobacco annually, and it is yet much used as a place of deposit by the planters prior to sending their tobacco to Richmond. The mechanics of the place are a tanner, saddler, wheelwright, blacksmith, cabinet maker, tailor, bricklayer, and stone mason. There are in the neighborhood 2 extensive manufacturing mills, a grist and a saw mill; - from 20 to 30,000 bushels of wheat are annually purchased in the village - a horse mail arrives thrice a week. Population 132, 1 of whom is a physician."

"Oakville P.V. (post village) in the S.W. part of the county . . situated at the intersection of the roads leading from Bent Creek, to Prince Edward C.H. and from Lynchburg to Stone Wall Mills, 2½ m's from the line of Campbell Co. It contains but 2 dwelling houses and a store selling about $10,000 worth of goods annually.

"The land in the immediate neighborhood of Oakville is sterile but level, the surrounding county is more fertile, and well adapted to the staples of the state. Much tobacco was formerly raised in this section of the country, but the planters are turning their attention more to the cultivation of other staples, and to improving their lands by clover, plaster, etc. There is great variety in the soil, some being dark and stony, some red, and some gray, - the former is most productive."

"Stone Wall Mills P.O. in the S.W. part of the County is situated on James River, 15 m's below Lynchburg. It contains 2 dwelling houses, 1 manufacturing mill, 2 mercantile stores, 1 tailor, 1 shoemaker, and 1 blacksmith; "Located in a convenient place for sending produce to market by water, and surrounded by a healthy and wealthy neighborhood. Population 20."

In the continuing story of the Appomattox Indians' attempt to gain recognition for their historic importance, the following excerpt from Henry Howe's **Historical Collections of Virginia** (1845) is hereby published.

"The following summary account of the Indians in Virginia, as they were about the year 1700, is from Beverly's **History of Virginia.**

"The Indians of Virginia, east of the Blue Ridge, are almost wasted, but such towns or people as retain their names and live in bodies, are hereunder set down; all of which together cannot raise five hundred fighting men. They live poorly, and much in fear of the neighboring Indians. Each town, by the articles of peace, 1677, pays three Indian arrows for their land, and twenty beaver-skins for protection every year.

". . . In Charles City, Appomattox, extinct."

LOOKING BACK . . .

1. Other name for Jennings Creek:
A.) Swanney B.) Farrar C.) Pawlett D.) Sweeney
2. Quisenberry's Mill was located on:
A.) Falling R. B.) Appomattox R. C.) Reedy Creek D.) Rocky Run
3. Formerly located near Swanney Creek:
A.) Rocks Church B.) Hollywood Church C.) Club Appo D.) Red Oak Ch.
4. Stonewall Mills was also known as:
A.) Quisenberry's B.) Hix's C.) Stratton's D.) Abbitt's
5. He ran a general store near Piney Mountain:
A.) Raymond Godsey B.) Ezekial Tompkins C.) Berkley Brown D.) Jno. Edward Childers

ANSWERS
1) A
2) C
3) A
4) C
5) D

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Rocks

AUGUST 4 - It was some kind of hot over the week end.

The Story Hour on Wednesday morning at Rocks is at 10 a.m. and not p.m.

Katherine Henderson, of Keysville, is a patient at Lynchburg General Hospital. A speedy recovery is wished her.

Mrs. Joe Almond and Jane went to Cullen Wednesday on a business trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dickerson, Donna and Ricky have returned from a vacation at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Toby Inge went out in the car Monday for a ride. He went back to the doctor in Lynchburg on Thursday. The proofs were selected last week for the church directory at Rocks.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Steve Almond from their wedding trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Cassie Baldwin was visiting Mrs. Graydon Maxwell Thursday afternoon. She is much better.

Melinda McIntosh spent Friday night with Debbie and Cindy Roach.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Richardson and family and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn McIntosh left Friday to attend the Gospel Sing at Watermelon Park at Berryville for the week end. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Richardson and Sabrina left Saturday afternoon to join them there, also Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hipps joined them that night.

The Rocks Quartet presented a concert of sacred music at a homecoming at Union Baptist Church in Dillwyn Sunday afternoon.

A number attended the first anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. Donald Wagner at Rocks on Friday night. Want you join in and make this coming year a better one than last year.

Mrs. Bernard Moore and grandson and sons, Mike and Steve of Texas were visiting the latter's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Moore over the week end.

Mrs. Bernice Martin entered Virginia Baptist Hospital last week. A speedy recovery is wished her.

A speedy recovery is wished B. B. Harris, Sr. who is sick.

Katherine Henderson has returned home from the hospital.

Mrs. Walter Ranson and Mrs. L. C. Elder were at Pamplin Saturday afternoon.

The youth will meet at the church on Friday at 12:30 for a hayride to the lake.

Congratulations to Mrs. Ann Ferguson who won a Christmas cactus from Superior Trees Nursery last Tuesday.

Sympathy is extended Mrs. Sadie Brightwell of Pamplin, in the death of her nephew, Robert Walker Wooten of Burkeville who died in a car accident on July 29.

Friends were shocked this morning to learn that Thomas Baldwin of Pamplin was found dead at his home.

Mrs. R. E. Roach and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Stanley Roach, were visiting the former's brother, Toby Inge, this afternoon (Monday).

HOLLYWOOD

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Smith, of Baltimore, Md., are spending some time with Mrs. C. R. Banton.

We are very sorry Mrs. C.R. Banton had a bad fall Saturday caused by a cat running under her feet and knocking her down on the cement porch. We hope she may soon be all right.

Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and Lisa were Mr. and Mrs. Basil King and children, of Covington.

Mr. and Mrs. David Austin carried Mr. Austin's aunt, Mrs. Lina Bagby, to see her husband, Norvall, who is in the hospital in Richmond. We hope Mr. Bagby may soon be better.

We were saddened when word came that Mr. Leslie Coleman had passed away. Much sympathy is extended each of his loved ones.

We are glad to know Mr. Berkley Brown is improving after an operation on his jaw Monday. We pray he may soon be well.

Relatives and friends are glad to hear Mrs. Mannie Hancock is somewhat better. We wish for her a speedy recovery and hope she may soon be home.

Visitors during the week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson were Mrs. Virgie Beasley and Mrs. Claude Hamlett and Brenda of Hurt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carson, of Concord.

Susan Woodall, of Lynchburg, is visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield and family.

Mrs. W. T. Covington spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Turns, of Rustburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Jennings, of Christiansburg, were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Webb and family. Mrs. Vara Robertson, of Lovington, visited in this home last week.

"Comedy Tonight!"

One of the hit songs from **A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum** is "Comedy Tonight", and the current show of The Daniel Players is indeed comedy at its best. The long-running Broadway musical will open at the John H. Daniel Campus in Keysville this Thursday evening at 8:30. Dudley D. Sauve is directing the following cast: Ed Baker, Henry Emmons, Ellie Edmunds, Stuart O'Steen, Al Overton, Tammy Tipton, Allan Mason, Jeff May, George Benford. The Proteans, who play many parts, are Mike Jones, Bob Fry and Bob Loveless. The Courtesans are Sandy Fry, Joan Tipton, Becky Roach, Robin Thomas, Sandra Tharpe and Judy Thayer. Bob Blasch and Gary Johnson provide the music. For an evening of great entertainment, call 736-8484 for reservations. Performance dates are Aug. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16.

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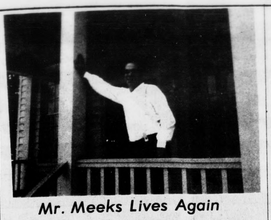

Mr. Meeks Lives Again

How does 18c a pound for best sirloin sound? If you are interested, we invite you to visit Meeks' Country Store at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Although we cannot promise you any meat at these prices, we have an alternative which is just as good - the chance to converse with Mr. Bob Vaughn about country stores of the past. Mr. Vaughn, who is the business manager for the sales operations at the Park, works in the country store as the interpreter and says, "I like my work beause it gives me the opportunity to talk with people which is one of my greatest pleasures."

Mr. Vaughn came to work at the Park in March, 1975. Previously he sent 27 years in the U.S. Navy in the field of electronics with duty in the Destroyer Forces Atlantic, Service Forces and Submarine. While serving in the Navy, he was able to visit several Asiatic and European countries. Upon retiring in 1973, Mr. Vaughn obtained his teaching certificate from the state of Virginia in electronics and moved to Pamplin, Va. where he presently resides.

Mr. Vaughn is married to the former Ann S. Guidea of Summit, New Jersey. They have four daughters and two grandchildren. He is a member of Rocks Baptist Church, Mr. Vaughn says the beauty of this area brought him here and he hopes it will be his home for many years to come.

Brookneal Will Stage "Tobacco Festival" Celebration

Brookneal will stage a two-day "Tobacco Festival" celebration on Sept. 5 and 6, as part of the town's 175th Anniversary observance.

Fri., Sept. 5 will be a merchants' promotion day, featuring special sales and other attractions. Merchants will decorate their windows, store fronts and interiors with appropriate displays for the occasion: many of the clerks and salespeople will wear costumes fitting the early years of the town at the beginning. There will be exhibits of early crafts, and a patriotic theme will blend with that of the tobacco harvest.

Highlight of the events on Sat., Sept. 6, will be the Tobacco Festival parade at 11 a.m. sponsored by the Brookneal Chamber of Commerce. This colorful presentation will include a number of bands, floats, marching units, horseback riders, antique vehicles, twirlers, and other units.

Marshal of the parade will be Chief Curtis Custalow of the Mattaponi Indians in his tribal regalia, as "Chief Tobacco," accompanied by some of his people.

Another outstanding feature of Saturday's festivities will be a day-long free performance of country music and Bluegrass bands, singers and other music groups, broadcasting from the depot platform.

Also on Saturday, there will be more craft and street exhibits, sports contests, an outdoor exhibition tobacco auction, square dancing, and other varied entertainment.

Tobacco warehouses will hold "open house."

The Brookneal Chamber of Commerce and Bicentennial Commission extend a cordial invitation to everyone to come and join in the celebration.

floured pans. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove - cool. Frost. Icing: Cream Cheese Icing
1 8 ounce package cream cheese
¼ cup margarine (½ stick)
½ teaspoon vanilla
1 pkg. confectioners sugar
Combine cream cheese and margarine. Beat till smooth and fluffy. Beat in vanilla and sugar till thick and creamy. Will frost 4 layers.

SS Cooperative News

W. E. Bondurant of Concord and H. W. Coleman of Pamplin were elected to the local Advisory Board at the Southern States Annual Membership Meeting held in Appomattox on July 23. Over 50 stockholder members and their families attended the session.

James R. Ford, Jr. of Appomattox was named chairman of the Board while N. W. Clowdis of Red House, Va. was picked as secretary.

Elected to the local Southern States Farm Home Advisory Committee were Mrs. O. B. Garriss of Appomattox and Mrs. J. A. Martin of Gladstone.

Mrs. J. Berkley Drinkard of Appomattox was chosen as chairman of the Farm Home Advisory Committee while Mrs. E. Marshall Stratton of Concord was named secretary.

Mr. H. W. Coleman of Pamplin was chosen as a delegate to represent the local membership at the Southern States Cooperative's 52nd Annual Stockholders Meeting in Richmond, on November 12 and 13. Mr. James R. Ford, Jr. of Appomattox was named alternate.

Elected as delegate and alternate to a District Election meeting to be held in Lynchburg this fall, was James R. Ford, Jr. of Appomattox, named as delegate and John H. Cole of Appomattox named as alternate.

Canaan Baptist

G. Maxey Slater of Richmond, a regional staff representative of Southern States Cooperative, in reporting on the overall operations of the co-op for the fiscal year ended June 30, told the session that volume was over $285 million. His report also touched on (1) the nation's bicentennial observance and the role cooperative principles played in the early growth of the country. (2) The responsibilities that member owners and cooperatives themselves have to each other. (3) The future role of cooperatives if their member producers are to continue to control their own destiny.

Mr. Slater pointed out that "cooperation was almost a way of life" in the early days. "There was no place for the man who could not and would not work with others."

He cited as one of the responsibilities cooperatives have to their members "the obligation to provide practical and feasible services to meet farmers' needs." On the other hand, members have the obligation of supporting their cooperative in every way they can.

In looking ahead, he cautioned that if farmer members are to continue to control farming in the future there is need to "develop and expand cooperative business. The efficiencies which have made the 20th century family farm so outstanding have caught the eye of large business organization who would like nothing better than to gain control of production agriculture.

Sunday, August 10 Homecoming and Revival begins. Rev. C. L. Elliott and the Mt. Olive Chorus will be in charge of the 11:30 a.m. service. Lunch will be served at 3 p.m. Rev. J. W. Paige will be guest speaker and one of his choirs will render music. Rev. McLaughlin will be the speaker for the week. Please come and worship with us.

The Meeting of the Pamplin Chapter of the American Association of Retired People will be held Thursday evening, August 14, at 7:00 at the Pamplin Methodist Church.

All members are urged to attend.

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